
DISAM Mobile Education Team Addresses Ukrainian Defense Officials On Security Assistance

From 14-18 February, a DISAM mobile education team (MET) consisting of Craig M. Brandt, Thomas L. Selden, and Major Mark Bourgeois, USA presented the Security Assistance Planning and Resource Management Course (SAM-P) to representatives of the Ukrainian military. This was the second such offering in Ukraine since security assistant relationships were established between our two countries in 1996. The mobile education team addressed a broad-based group of Ukrainian defense officials on the workings of security assistance. The class consisted of 35 members mostly of the Ministry of Defense and the General Staff, as well as representatives of their senior service schools. The Ukrainian military is interested in strengthening its ties with the U.S. and Western Europe as has been demonstrated by their active participation in the Partnership for Peace and in the peacekeeping force in Kosovo. The course stressed the responsibilities of the Ukrainian armed forces and how security assistance could operate in this new role.



Colonel Vadym Mykolayovych Kovalsky, Deputy Chief, Main Directorate of Economy in the Ukrainian Ministry of Defense, was the coordinator for the Planning and Resource Management Course and presided over the graduation ceremonies.

Colonel Vadym Kovalsky, Deputy Chief, Main Directorate of Economy in the MoD, was the officer in charge of the course and the host for the DISAM team. Colonel Kovalsky was aided by Captain Andriy Nebzat of the Department of International Cooperation of the MoD. Additional assistance was provided by the American course coordinator, Captain Mike Popovich, USA, the Marshall Center augmentee to the ODC.

The course was taught in English with simultaneous translation provided by Dialog International, Inc.

Colonel Kovalsky presided over both the opening and closing ceremonies. Lieutenant Colonel Denise Donovan, USA, the security assistance officer of the ODC, also spoke at the

graduation ceremony in which the graduates were awarded their diplomas and the DISAM badges. After graduation, the DISAM faculty and officers from the ODC were fêted at a dinner of traditional Ukrainian delicacies by Colonel Kovalsky.



Professor Tom Selden (right) thanks Captain Andriy Nebrat of the Department of International Cooperation in the Ministry of Defense for his valuable assistance during the DISAM course.

The MET was well received by the students who were the officials of the defense ministry charged with administration of the new FMS programs. With security assistance programs with the U.S. just starting to get underway, the course attempted to demonstrate the range of activities which the Ukrainian armed forces has to be able to perform for a successful arms transfer relationship with the U.S.